

# UNCLE SAM'S PREPARATIONS TO COUNT YOU

BY WILLARD W. GARDNER

**F**OR the thirteenth time in his 130-year career Uncle Sam is getting ready to count noses. Census-taking will occupy all his energies in 1910, but even to-day he is getting ready for that Herculean task. It is the biggest thing the United States does once in every ten years, but to-day the system for its accomplishment has no peers anywhere in the world.

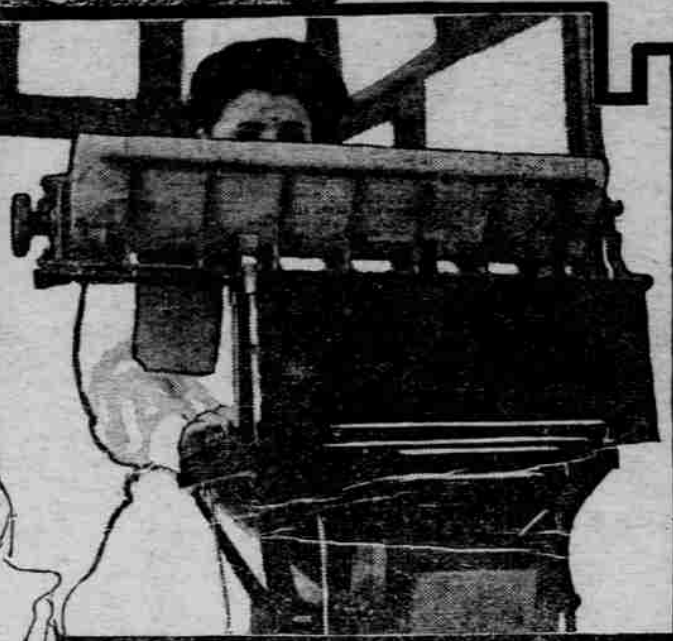
The reason is because America now has a permanent census bureau, one which is always making preparations for the next decade's count. The country's solons will go down into the public treasury this winter for \$14,000,000 for the 1910 census, and of that sum, \$1,500,000 is for maintenance of a permanent bureau.

Speaking in smaller figures, it costs the United States government 17 cents for counting each and every man, woman, boy and girl once in ten years. It costs just as much to count John D. Rockefeller as it does the lone immigrant from Norway who arrives at New York with \$23 as a nucleus for his prospective fortune.

It is estimated that the population



S. N. D. NORTH-DIRECTOR OF THE U. S. CENSUS.



REAR OF THE REMARKABLE NEW CARD PUNCHING MACHINE.

be placed upon the payroll of the United States government next summer and shortly afterward this great counting process will be commenced. After the New Year the greatest problem which Director North faced was of getting enough money from congress to fully guarantee a complete count, which would fully set forth all that statisticians wished to know. The census budget was up before congress last year, but was turned over to the 1908-09 national legislature.

Lawmakers much regret that whereas the constitution of the United States requires that each ten years there be a



THE NEWLY-PERFECTED TABULATING MACHINE.

of this country has increased 20 per cent. since the last census was taken in 1900 and according to conservative guesses by men who are qualified to know, the number of persons should total in the neighborhood of 90,000,000. As a consequence statisticians have arrived at the decision that in 1920 the population will touch the 100,000,000 mark.

The census of 1910 is to cost the people little more than that of 1900 for the reason that machines, which are wonderful in their makeup, have been invented by members of the census bureau and these do far greater work than the old style counting devices in use when the job was started nine years ago.

There are two styles of machines—one is the card punching device and the other, the tabulator. The first punches the holes in the census cards, which are arranged much as in the conventional card index. The wonderful tabulating machine then takes the pasteboards and solely by mechanical means adds, classifies and makes up totals from the cards, which pass through the device faster than the eye can follow them. Both machines are essential and each is dependent upon the other for success.

The new card punching machine, which is a great improvement upon the old system, is an electrical contrivance. Hitherto the operator was compelled to play upon it like a typist, but to-day all that is necessary is to touch the key desired, press a lever and the machine keeps on punching cards as long as the power is kept on. The old hand puncher was capable of sending out 900 cards each day while the new automaton attains a speed of 3,500 and saves the operators' nerves.

Another feature of these new machines is that the United States will soon know, after the cards have been turned in by the great army of statisticians, just where it stands on population. Classification is also a great feature, divisions being made of whites, blacks, and other races, along with females, males, natives, foreigners, married and single persons.

One hundred and fifty of these new machines are in the process of construction for the census king of 1910. Three thousand persons will do clerical work in the government offices at Washington. So you see there is something to this census taking business.

Director North of the census declares that as soon as the incoming cards are punched he will be able to give to the country the total. The tabulating machines are now a closely guarded secret in a little machine shop at the census bureau offices in Washington and at last accounts the experts at work upon it were perfecting the details of its construction. It is a government invention and no one person gets the credit for it, but it will revolutionize the business of counting noses.

In other years Uncle Sam's work of taking a spot of his people was like a man in the hay a few business jumping into a printing shop



CRESSY L. WILBUR CHIEF STATISTICIAN.

and trying to make good. The conditions each ten years were so much different from those of the decade previous that even though the same persons were given the care of the offices connected therewith, they found themselves at sea within a few days. Now, however, the permanent census bureau makes the counting of the population a business for all time with Uncle Sam and this gigantic job will be given the attention of his weather eye from day to day, though the fruits of the work will be thrust into the public gaze only once in ten years.

Men who are experts on taking the census of countries declare that the system by which the government will take the count in 1910 is admittedly a model which the whole world should follow, if it would be as up-to-date as this corner. Another project is on foot to-day which will greatly facilitate this census program. That is the erection of a permanent home for the population-counters. If congress allows Director North to erect such an edifice, it will be a specially constructed statistics manufacturing plant. In a communication to congress Director North sets forth his plans. He plans to expend the sum of \$675,000 for the purchase of a site and for the six-story fireproof building upon which he is laying his program. This, he says, will provide ample accommodations for the 3,000 persons who are engaged in this work from year to year.

To-day, if you were to visit Washington, and wished to see the census bureau, you would be led to a one-story brick structure which was erected for the tabulation of statistics in 1900. One great space problem which the government faces is the storing of census reports and this took up just about all the room of the old structure, so that most of the clerks and other help had to be accommodated elsewhere. It was recently estimated that it would house just about one-fourth of the clerks needed for the census next year.

The great army of house-to-house canvassers who will count you and your family in 1910 are not as yet even estimated by Director North, but it is recorded that one man counts only about 10,000 persons, many of them counting less in the small space of time allotted to the tabulation.

Thousands upon thousands of extra men will



THE OLD STYLE TABULATOR WITH DIALS THAT REQUIRED TO BE RESET BY HAND.

complete, satisfactory census of all the souls in the country, no adequate plans were made when the republic was planted on this side of the Atlantic. For that reason every decade saw a hurry and scurry to count the population, great confusion, distress in some sections and general prevalence of conditions bordering on chaos. So, for more than a century it continued thus each year, for the preceding administration, it is stated, did not care about giving the next successful party anything upon which the caption of "spoils" might be hung. It is declared.

So nobody went after a real census system very strongly.

But modern ideas have been injected into the counting process and the gigantic move for a permanent bureau having succeeded, we are now to have a census which will enumerate, speedily, accurately and give results to the people in the shortest possible time. The establishment of a permanent bureau will also bring about the perfection of more accurate, faster and far better ideas at later dates. Each decade will see changes for the best, it is declared by those in power at Washington.

## Cultivate the Open Mind.

President Eliot says the open mind is a fruit of culture. And it is likewise, a Christian virtue. The man with an open mind is an agreeable person. He is just and kindly. One can talk with him with pleasure, for one can be quite sure, if the mind is open, there is no prejudice, envy or ill-will there. The open mind is where the truth is welcomed, and where it is not tainted with meanness of any kind.

As a general thing, the more ignorant a person is the tighter is his mind closed. He thus becomes exceedingly absurd, and consequently pitiful. He loses influence and in time, respect. He likes to say his mind is made up, which means that the doors and windows of his soul are shut and no more light will be let in.

That is a bad situation for a person to get in. It is full of cold gloom, pessimism, and malign meditations; and stands in the way of the world getting better. And who wants to be such an obstruction?

## Latest Kansas Events.

### The Kansas Teachers Elect.

The State Teachers' association elected the following officers for 1909: President, C. S. Ridsen, Independence; first vice president, Miss Elsie Maddox, Emporia; second vice president, R. G. Mueller, Seneca; third vice president, J. E. Stokesberry, Fort Scott; auditing committee, M. T. Barnett, Oberlin; E. B. Albaugh, Clay Center; R. R. Price, Hutchinson. The executive committee will select the secretary and treasurer. A resolution was adopted declaring that state publication of school text books was impracticable at the present time. The teachers say that an experience of 20 years has shown that state publication cheapened the books and gave poorer quality. The teachers asked the next legislature to appoint a committee to study this question and report to the governor before the legislature meets two years hence. Hereafter the annual meetings of the association will be held the last of October instead of the last week of December. A resolution favoring suffrage for women was slipped into the list of resolutions. It was adopted without comment.

### Horticulturists Elect Officers.

At a meeting of the Kansas Horticultural society in Topeka the following officers were elected for the coming year: President, Edwin Snyder, Topeka; vice president, E. C. Hoover, Wichita; secretary, Walter Wallhouse, Topeka; treasurer, Clarence Holsinger, Rosedale; trustees, First district, F. W. Dixon, Holton; Second, C. V. Holsinger, Rosedale; Third, F. L. Kenoyer, Independence; Fourth, C. C. Cook, Eskridge; Fifth, Albert Dickinson, Manhattan; Sixth, J. J. Alexander, Norton; Seventh, C. A. Blackmoor, Sharon; and Eighth, George A. Blair, Mulvane; entomologists, Professor S. J. Hunter, Lawrence; Professor T. J. Headlee, Manhattan; microscopist, Professor Bernard B. Smyth, Topeka.

### The Unloaded Gun Again.

Believing the gun he held was not loaded, Charles Swigert, aged 12, Tuesday blew the top off the head of his 7-year-old-cousin, Willie Swigert, with a charge of shot at East Mulberry, pulling the trigger after remarking in fun he was going to shoot. "Shoot away, for the gun isn't loaded" was the reply, followed almost instantly by the gun's boom. The boys had been hunting and thought the load had been removed from the gun. The dead boy was the son of the city marshal of East Mulberry.

### Women May Vote in Primaries.

Attorney General Jackson has, upon the request from the city clerk of Coffeyville, rendered a decision to the effect that women are entitled to vote at primary elections. City Attorney Snelling had ruled that women were barred according to the way in which the primary law and general election laws read.

### A New K. S. A. C. Dairy Teacher.

Andrew Logan of Tavistock, Canada, has been appointed instructor in commercial dairying at the Kansas State Agricultural college, and assumed his duties January 1. Mr. Logan is a graduate of the Reading Agricultural college, Reading, England, and of the Midland Dairy institute, Derby, England.

### K. U. Alumni Organize.

A permanent organization of the Kansas university alumni of Crawford county was effected at a banquet and reception held at the Elks club rooms in Pittsburg. C. O. Pangrey was elected president and Mrs. F. B. Wheeler of Pittsburg, secretary.

### Liquor Agents Evade Law.

The agents of wholesale liquor houses making shipments to Wichita have adopted a method for evading the officers who are watching for violators of the liquor law, and it works perfectly. The liquor is ordered in carload lots and is allowed to remain in the car until it is delivered. The car is sealed each night, and the demurrage is only a dollar a day. The officers can not break into the car, and delivering direct from the car to the purchasers makes it interstate business. An appeal will be made to the railroad companies to have the practice stopped.

### Kansas Music Teachers Organize.

A Kansas Music Teachers' association was organized at Wichita by the election of the following officers: Charles Carter, Wichita, president; Theodore Lindberg, Wichita secretary; Reno B. Myers, Wichita, treasurer; W. S. Vandor, Pratt; B. S. Hoagland, Hutchinson; O. P. Barbour, Winfield, directors. The next meeting will be held in Wichita December 28, 29 and 30, 1909.

### Wichita to Try Again.

Mayor Graham of Wichita, has issued a proclamation calling an election February 2 for the purpose of voting on the proposition of the adoption of the commission system of municipal government. The proposition was voted down at an election held there last spring.

### Lincoln County Mines Reopened.

The coal mining industry in Lincoln county has been re-established near Denmark, and two or three mines are now in operation.

### Winter Institutes in Kansas.

The department of farmers' institutes in the Kansas State Agricultural college is planning a series of meetings to begin January 11. The fall campaign, just ended, resulted in more than 100 successful institutes or meetings. The first of the winter meetings probably will be held at Osage City, January 11. This institute will work south and east for eight weeks, including all county institutes that are not held in the fall and taking in all the local institutes and also making some new places. This circuit will be conducted by Mr. Crabtree, an assistant to Superintendent Miller. He will be assisted by S. C. Hanna of Howard, J. G. Hancy of Oswego and others. Another circuit probably will start at Dodge City, January 11 and continue in Southwestern Kansas for seven or eight weeks. This circuit, for most of the time, will be conducted by Superintendent Miller, assisted by A. H. Leidigh of Reno county, formerly in charge of the government experiment station at Amarillo, Tex. Other meetings will be held in Northern Kansas and in Western Kansas along the Union Pacific and Rock Island railways. Most of these meetings will be conducted by Superintendent McClelland of the Hays branch experiment station and Prof. Willard of the college and Prof. E. H. Webster, the new director of the experiment station.

### Taxes For Fraternal Orders.

The Kansas tax commission is sending out a letter to all county assessors instructing them that the property of all fraternal societies must be placed on the tax rolls for next year. The district court in Shawnee county in a decision handed down a few days ago said that the property of fraternal societies should not be taxed. The tax commission had made a different ruling and fraternal society property valued at more than \$2,000,000 was assessed for taxation last year. The commission in its letter says that the decision of the Shawnee county court does not affect the standing of fraternal societies in any other county as far as taxation is concerned, and that the assessors should continue to place this kind of property on the tax rolls.

### He Gave a County a Poor Farm.

Russell county will sell a farm at public auction January 7 and the money derived from the sale will be used to establish a county poor farm. The farm to be sold was acquired by the county commissioners in 1886. The intention at that time was to make it a poor farm, but the plans never were carried out. The county came into possession of the farm through an agreement of the commissioners to take care of Marcus J. Welby, pay his doctor bill and nurse hire in his last illness. The farm consists of 240 acres, but is not located suitably for a poor farm.

### Girl Victim of Gas Fumes.

Miss Arnetta Rogers, 21 years old, was found dead in the home of George J. McPhillamney, 1529 Kansas avenue, Topeka, where she roomed. She was discovered on her bed in her room with the gas light and gas stove burning. The stove, a large one, had no pipe attachment. Miss Rogers probably died from the fumes.

### Kansas Editors Meet Earlier.

The date for the annual meeting of the Kansas Editorial association has been changed from February 9-10 to February 1-2. The change was made on account of some of the officers of the national association who expect to be present.

### Revolutionary Daughter Dies.

Mrs. L. C. Mason, wife of one of the wealthiest and most prominent citizens of Independence, died recently of pneumonia, after a three week's illness. Deceased was born in Rockport, Ind., in 1845, her maiden name being Mary Virginia Bratton. She was a daughter of the American Revolution and a very prominent member of the Presbyterian church.

### Kansas Injured at Football.

In a football game at Burlington Martin Bradford, 18 years old, was injured and remained unconscious until the next morning. His injury was suffered in the last minute of play. Bradford was a Burlington player and he was either struck on the back of the head or his neck was twisted. It is not believed that any permanent injury will result.

### Serious Fire at Mulberry.

A fire that started from some unknown cause wiped out an entire block at Mulberry, in the northern part of Crawford county, entailing a loss of about \$15,000.

### Many Pheasants for Kansas.

Del Travis, state fish and game warden, has imported 1,100 pairs of Hungarian pheasants for stocking Kansas. The birds are now being distributed through the various counties and they will be released early next spring by the county clerks who are to keep them this winter.

### A New State Bank for Salina.

Salina is to have a new state bank, the Traders' State, with a capital stock of \$35,000. This will be the fourth bank for Salina.